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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/896,990	07/02/2001	Michael John Bader	2001B053	1190
23455	7590	12/31/2003	EXAMINER	
EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY			JACKSON, MONIQUE R	
P O BOX 2149			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149			1773	

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 10/01/03 has been entered. Claims 1-14 have been canceled. New claims 15-33 have been added. Claims 15-33 are pending in the application. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 15-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 15, 25, and 31 recite the limitation "1.5-6 μ m" for the thickness of the second skin layer however the instant disclosure at the time of filing does not provide support for the 6 μ m endpoint. The instant disclosure at the time of filing recites a thickness of 1.5-12 μ m or more specifically 2.5-10 μ m however there is nothing in the original disclosure to lead one having ordinary skill in the art to an endpoint of 6 μ m. It is also noted that Claim 29 recites a thickness of 1.5-3.5 μ m wherein the 3.5 μ m endpoint is not supported by the original disclosure. Further, Claim 31 recites a particle size of 3-20 μ m however the original disclosure at the time of filing recites a particle size of 5-25 μ m, 7-20 μ m, or 10-18 μ m.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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5. Claims 17, 21, 24, 26-28 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "thin layer" in claims 17, 21, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "thin" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

6. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 33 recites the limitation "further comprises a fourth polymeric material" however it is noted that there is no recitation of a first, second or third polymeric material.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 10/01/03 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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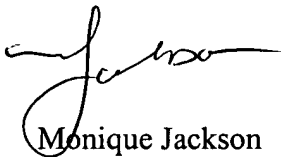
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R Jackson whose telephone number is 703-308-0428.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul J Thibodeau can be reached on 703-308-2367. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Monique Jackson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1700
December 29, 2003